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STABILIZATION IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

WEEKLY REPORT (AUGUST 9–15, 2012)

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STABILIZATION IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

WEEKLY REPORT

Submitted to:

USAID | Afghanistan

Prepared by:

AECOM International Development

DISCLAIMER:

The authors' views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

BACKGROUND

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded AECOM International Development the Stabilization in Key Areas (SIKA) - West program on January 29, 2012. The SIKA-West 18-month contract (with an additional 18-month option period) is intended to increase stability and pave the way to transition in the western provinces of Herat, Farah, Badghis, and Ghor. The program will be led by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in partnership with USAID and SIKA-West.

KEY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY REPORT

SIKA-West continued roll-out activities in Farah Province and collected stakeholder information in both the Badghis and Herat Provinces. Positive community feedback was collected by IR1 following the Bala Baluk District Stabilization Committee (DSC) meeting the previous week. Ongoing trainings included an AECOM Code of Conduct and a District Stabilization Committee (DSC) presentation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK INCLUDE:

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1

- On August 15, the Farah Provincial Support Team (PST) Manager met with the Bala Baluk District Governor to receive feedback on the DSC meeting that the governor chaired on August 8. The District Governor said there had been great community interest in the SIKA-West program following the meeting, and many people had visited his office to find out more information and expressed their willingness to participate. He also urged the program to begin implementing activities in the near future in order to maintain momentum.
- Members of the Bala Baluk District Stabilization Committee (DSC) recommended to the Farah PST staff that the name of the DSC be changed to the District Stabilization Shura (DSS). They claim that the word “committee” has a negative connotation, based on past experiences with other committees which had failed after their establishment. The DSC members also expressed their willingness to support this program, but were concerned that they would not be receiving any payment for participation. They requested that SIKA-West provide a transportation stipend, as some of them are traveling from very remote areas. This issue will be raised with USAID and an answer will be conveyed in the next meeting.
- On August 11, the IR1 lead briefed USAID representatives and SIKA-West leads on the Farah Mission Report.
- On August 13, the IR1 lead and Stabilization Program Officers (SPOs) conducted an orientation training on stabilization programming for the recently recruited SPO, Mr. Abdullah Sodais.
- On August 14, the IR1 SPO translated the DSC formation process presentation into the Dari language and submitted it to the Capacity Building Department (CBD) for review.
- On August 15, the IR1 SPO held a DSC presentation for SIKA-West Program and Operation staff. The USAID Alternate Contracting Officer Representative (ACOR) and the SIKA-West COP also participated in this presentation.
- On August 15, Mr. Ghulam Hazrat Sarwary, recruited as a Stability Program Officer, joined the IR1 Team.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 2

- IR2 continued reviewing and updating information on services and service providers for the Bala Baluk Service Provider Catalog (SPC), as well as coordinated the collection and inputting of information by the PST in Herat and Badghis Provinces.
- The IR2 lead completed a draft of the Bala Baluk six-month engagement plan.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 3

- IR3 staff coordinated with the Farah Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD) to produce a short video clip in recognition of the holy *Eid* period. The message was produced in Pashtun and Dari and will be broadcast through Farah Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) from August 17-20.
- IR3 staff worked with the Farah DRRD to design a brochure aimed at raising public awareness of the responsibilities, goals and objectives of the District Development Assembly (DDA). On August 13 the IR3 Communications Officer met with the Farah DRRD Deputy Director to discuss the content of the brochure. It is planned that the Farah DRRD Media Officer will work closely with IR3 to develop the brochure next week.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 4

- The IR4 lead revised a presentation on the Phases of IR4 for the Farah District Stabilization Team (DST), PST, and DRRD staff.
- All IR4 staff attended both the “Understanding Gender Mainstreaming” and the AECOM Code of Conduct trainings.
- IR4 short-listed candidates who applied for the post of Grants and Compliance Officers and Community Development Technicians, conducted interviews and selected strong candidates who will work from the SIKA-West Herat office. The IR4 lead was impressed by the caliber of the candidates who applied for the position, and is confident that a capable staff member will be added to the SIKA-West staff in the near future.

DETAILED PROVINCIAL/DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- The Herat PST collected Shindand and Koshk e Sangi District data for stakeholder analysis. The PST also continued revising the list of all Community Development Councils (CDCs) in both districts and responded to comments from IR2 regarding the District Profiles and Service Provider Catalog for Shindand and Koshk e Sangi.
- Herat PST staff also worked with IR3 to develop a six month Communications and Public Outreach plan.
- The Farah PST supported the IR1 SPO in collecting feedback from the Bala Baluk District DSC meeting. Farah PST staff also finalized the Bala Baluk District Profile and conducted a gender survey in order to provide literacy courses to displaced families in the Bala Baluk District. The staff continued collecting and revising information for the SPC.
- The Badghis PST staff continued to collect data for the District Profiles and the Service Provider Catalog.

GENDER AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Gender Component

- The CBD team continued developing Gender Mainstreaming materials for the upcoming PST/DST training.

- During the reporting period, CBD staff gathered 639 names of illiterate female residents from the Bala Baluk District in preparation for the Literacy Training Program, set to start in September. The CBD also shortlisted nine resumes for the position of Literacy Teacher in the Bala Baluk District. Arrangements are underway to use the District Governor's compound as a training location.
- The CBD had issued a number of RFPs during the previous week, and is currently waiting on responses to the Gender Literacy Training, Gender Health & Nutrition Training, and Gender Vocational Training RFPs for the Bala Baluk District.

CBD Headquarters Component

- Thirty-Seven Training Modules covering IR1-IR4/M&E and Gender were completed and translated into Dari and Pashto and shared with the SIKA West program.
- IR1- Formation Process of DSC and CBD- Meeting Management Skills training materials were developed during the week.
- The training calendar was updated and sent to all relevant staff. The calendar coordinates all IR/M&E and Gender training activities in the field for the month of August.
- The CBD team worked with IR1, IR3 and IR4 to develop training materials which will enable them to train RRD counterparts and district entities in the field.
- The following CBD facilitated trainings were conducted during the week:
 1. August 12: Understanding Gender Mainstreaming (Part I)
 2. August 13: SIKA-West Code of Conduct
 3. August 14: IR1 Formation Process of DSC

CBD Farah Component

- The Farah DRRD Capacity Needs Assessment data was received and is currently being reviewed to plan upcoming capacity building training sessions for the DRRD. Current needs have been identified and incorporated into the CBD six-month engagement plan. Material requests have also been identified and are being sourced through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.
- The Bala Baluk District Governor Capacity Building Needs Assessment is underway, and the Bala Baluk DSC Needs Assessment is scheduled to begin on August 26.
- The Farah DRRD and Farah PST/DST integration plan is in progress. They will match counterparts who can support the continued development of Farah DRRD.
- CBD is waiting on responses for the following RFPs:
 1. Computer Programming RFP for Farah DRRD/PST
 2. Language Training RFP for Farah DRRD/PST
 3. Technical Engineering Training RFP for Farah DRRD/PST/DST/DEs
- During the week, the CBD engaged with the Farah DRRD to determine a location for a resource library within the Farah DRRD office.
- The CBD lead worked with PST and Herat staff to prepare a six month Bala Baluk Engagement Plan.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- M&E continued collecting and filing relevant information and data on SIKA-West's activities towards achieving the program's intermediate results and indicators.
- M&E lead spent the week producing success stories and preparing the July 2012 Monthly Report as well as the May—July 2012 Quarterly Report.

HR & RECRUITMENT

- On August 13, HR staff held Code of Conduct training for all staff present in the Herat office.
- To date, 78 employees (27 female, 51 male) have been hired and 17 positions are in process.

SIKA-West Recruitment				
Staff	Herat Office	Herat Province	Farah Province	Badghis Province
Hired	56	6	11	5
In process	10	2	1	4
Females hired	22	2	2	1
Males hired	34	4	9	4

DELIVERABLES

- SIKA-West July 2012 Monthly Report

SECURITY OPERATIONS

- Conducted various Herat City moves without incident.
- Continued to liaise with other projects operating within the Herat area.
- APPF personnel with weapons were encountering problems with the Embassy Air flight traveling to Farah--the paperwork in Dari is not being recognized. The APPF Commander is still in contact with the MOI, APPF head office to try and resolve this issue and obtain translated documentation.

LOOKING AHEAD/NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

- IR4 staff plan to coordinate with IR3 staff to gather information and develop the District Profiles for Koshk e Rabat Sangi.
- IR1 staff plan to follow up on developing training materials for the proposed Bala Baluk DSC meeting.
- National staff will be on public holiday for the *Eid* period, and due to security concerns, remaining expatriate personnel will be on lock down during this period.

IMAGES



SIKA-West Stabilization Program Officer conducting DSC presentation training for SIKA-West staff on August 15, 2012.